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Application No.: 10/526,248

Docket No.: JCLA12555

REMARKS

Present Status of the Application

Claims 1-17 are pending in the instant application.

In the office action dated July 12, 2006, claims 1-2 and 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Witt et al. (US-5,779,995, hereinafter "Witt").

Claims 5, 8, 11, and 14-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Witt et al. (US-5,779,995, hereinafter "Witt") and further in view of Hirschfeld et al. (US-5,284,678, hereinafter "Hirschfeld").

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Witt et al. (US-5,779,995, hereinafter "Witt") and further in view of Hanify et al. (US-5,227,136, hereinafter "Hanify").

Claims 10, 13, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Witt et al. (US-5,779,995, hereinafter "Witt") in view of Hanify et al. (US-5,227,136, hereinafter "Hanify"), and further in view of Hirschfeld et al. (US-5,284,678, hereinafter "Hirschfeld").

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Witt et al. (US-5,779,995, hereinafter "Witt") and further in view of Stormo (US-5,779,996, hereinafter "Stormo").

Claims 9, 12, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Witt et al. (US-5,779,995, hereinafter "Witt") in view of Stormo (US-5,779,996, hereinafter "Stormo"), and further in view of Hirschfeld et al. (US-5,284,678, hereinafter "Hirschfeld").

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Applicants have cancelled claims 5 and 8-17. Claims 1-4 and 6-7 are pending.

Reconsideration of those claims is respectfully requested.

Miscellaneous Issues

Applicants have amended specification for correcting typographic errors.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

In the Office Action, claims 1-2 and 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Witt. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections for at least the reasons set forth below.

As the features recited independent claim 1, the present invention is directed to “*A fluidized bed apparatus used for coating processing or granulation processing of powder particles*”.

Further, a fluidizing gas introduced through a bottom portion of the processing container causes powder particles in the processing container to form a fluidized bed in which the powder particles circulate so as to ascend through a space between an inner wall of the processing container and the draft tube and descend through an inner portion of the draft tube. In addition, a rotary rotor is used for sending the powder particles that have passed the disintegrator mechanism to an upward current of the fluidizing gas by centrifugal force.

In re Witt, Witt discloses a sludge phase reactor for exothermic sludge phase reaction, such

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as hydrogenating aromatic nitro compounds, in which at least one finely divided solid phase and one fluid phase participate. Witt does not disclose a fluidized bed apparatus used for coating processing or granulation processing of powder particles of the present invention.

Further in Witt, the circulating flow of the reacting mass is brought about by the agitator 4 with a central hollow shaft 41 and an agitator blade 42. That is, the agitator 4 conveys the reaction mass downward in the central flow chamber 3 and produces an upward flow of the reaction mass is drawn out of the gas chamber in the upper part of the reaction container by means of intake opening 44 in the agitator shaft 41. **In other words, the gas flowing into the upper part of the reaction container 1 is not for circulating of the reaction mass but for gassing the reaction mass.**

Therefore, Witt at least does not disclose the features as recited in independent claim 1.

Even further in Hischfeld, the Examiner admits that Hischfeld fails to show "wherein the fluid bed apparatus further comprises a rotary rotor for sending the powder particles that have passed the disintegrator mechanism to an upward current of the fluidizing gas by centrifugal force.

With at least the same foregoing reasons, independent claim 1 and dependent claims 2 and 6-7 are distinct over Witt in view of Hischfeld.

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Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Witt in view of Hanify. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Witt in view of Stormo.

Hanify and Stormo does not supply the missing features in Witt, with respect to independent claim 1. Therefore, claims 3 and 4 are allowable as well.

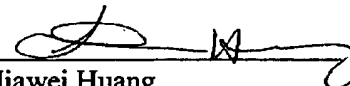
CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that the pending claims 1-4 and 6-7 are in proper condition for allowance and an action to such effect is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

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Respectfully submitted,
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